## The Cochin Co-operative Land Mortgage Bank.

**Mr. K. Narayana Menon.**– I beg to move that the Cochin Co-operative Land Mortgage Bill be taken up and finally passed.

**Rao Bahadur C. Gopala Menon.**—I beg to support the motion before the House. I understand that the practice in this House is not to make any speech at the third reading of the Bill. I am glad to see that the Bill has received the blessings of this House, and I shall not take up the time of the House with any further speech on the subject.

*Motion put and carried.*

## The Cochin Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

**Mr. Thomas Manjuran.**—I beg to present the Select Committee Report on the Cochin Criminal Law Amendment Bill and move that the Bill be taken into consideration. In doing so, I wish to say a few words.

The only provisions sought to be introduced by this amendment relate to criminal conspiracy. Such provisions do not exist now in our Penal Code, although similar provisions have been in existence in the corresponding British Indian Code for several decades past. Under the existing Penal Code the only conspiracy that is made an offence as such is one to wage war against the State. But it was found in practice that with the introduction of the Trade Union and other laws in Cochin some sort of legislation to control possible conspiracies with regard to workmen and others should be introduced. For instance, it was found that just a few handful of influential, misguided workmen disposed to bring trouble among workmen in mills could easily bring about a deadlock by preaching false or intimidating matter with a view to prevent the workmen from doing work. That sort of thing is likely to become intolerable and it was noticed that there should be some sort of restriction with regard to possible mischief that way. Similarly with regard to general society also. It was felt that in the absence of provisions relating to conspiracy, serious difficulties may be felt in administering criminal law. For instance it was felt that even if the Government became aware that there was a conspiracy for murder or arson Government officers could not take any action whatsoever before the perpetration of the deeds themselves. This is evidently quite an unsatisfactory state of affairs from the point of view of public safety. It is in consideration of

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